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**Sent:** Thursday, December 10, 2009 1:22 PM  
**To:** ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>  
**Subject:** URGENT: Antitrust workshop comment and testimony

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**Help! The time is urgent!** I have provided you with much information, and I am at your service to continue to do so. But it is your turn and **YOU ARE NEEDED NOW!** The dairy crisis corruption and failed cost of production milk prices to US dairy farmers is paralleling Wallstreet and its impact equally or more devastating to the US in economy, jobs, food security and safety, rural America, family lives, etc.

Some say agriculture issues are not of interest, I say the negligence and ignorance of the red flag occurring in the dairy and agriculture industry will prove destructive as were the warnings on Wallstreet that were not taken seriously when they should have.

I am asking you as a professional, dairy farmer, consumer, and US citizen to take the torch of need and help I and so many have been bringing to your attention and carry it the next distance further.

Milk prices dropped 50% near \$10.00 per hundred weight, cost of production needed to just survive is over \$20.00 per hundred weight. Farmers cannot continue and are quitting at alarming rates. The corruption is apparent and rampant throughout the industry as Dairy Farmers of America were fined \$12 million dollars for manipulating dairy prices with this latest revelation only the tip of the iceberg. Action must be taken against the abuses in the antitrust investigation into DFA and Associates that reveal more improprieties than the Enron scandal. To do nothing is unacceptable.

**US dairy farmers need a national cost of production , Dairy Bill S-1645 is the solution, and the dairy industry corruption and abuses need to be acted on, and MPC imports need to be addressed and controlled to secure the security and safety of our US food supply that is at risk and being threatened.**

### **Help Save My Farm, The Dairy Industry, Our Nations Food**

Hi, my name is LoriJayne Grahn from Pelican Rapids, Minnesota. I am a dairy farmer with a beautiful herd of approximately 35 Brown Swiss cows. We are now struggling to save our farm and we are on the verge of losing everything. I was forced to quit milking against my will because I did not receive a price for my milk that met the cost of production, and the corruptness and control of the co-ops and corporate entities are destroying the dairy industry that not only threatens our dedicated farmers but consumers as well.

In 1980 Minnesota had 27,000 dairy farms, now the latest statistics say 4,910 are left and still declining. The price collapse of 2006 we got a milk price per hundred weight of \$10.60. The 2008-2009 milk prices are nose-diving to that point again. We needed at least \$20.00 to break even then, and need even more now. As dairy farmers we did everything right, I even earned awards for quality milk. But we had no control over rising fuel costs, feed and hay prices, plus the supplies, hauling, veterinary services, and everything else needed to produce milk all of which has gone up at alarming high rates. Everyone else could raise their prices....but not the farmer.

The roller coaster price system is destructive. The farmer's paycheck is what's left over after everyone else profits or takes their costs first. The farmer gets very little from those inflated prices in the grocery stores the consumer pays. Now we are desperately struggling to keep our beautiful cows and preserve our farm that has been in the family nearing 100 years. We are forced to work jobs off the farm full-time in addition to running our dairy farm to save it. Farmers can't recover the debt load or losses when

the checks they receive is always below cost of production. We have sacrificed everything because for us our farm is everything. A farm is not only a place of employment, it is a place of family, our home and heritage, a multi-skilled good way of Life, it is the heart and health of rural America, our environment, and our food supply.

Through respect and care for the land and animals they sustain our lives in many vital ways. But as farmers go out of business, farmland is sold and developed and lost forever.

New dairy policies are needed. My Minnesota representative and senators plus the rest of congress must do the right things. To do nothing is not acceptable. The corruption, consolidation, and corporate world has been able to control the dairy industry and its path. This needs to stop now. Our senators and representatives need to change this path in the dairy industry that is paralleling the Wall Street crises leading to disaster. Action is needed immediately. A cost of production is needed nationally for dairy farmers. The Federal Milk Marketing orders enacted in 1937 is outdated and needs reform. Prohibit forward contracting that allows processors to pay farmers below the Federal Milk Marketing Orders price. Ensure transparency in milk pricing. Enforcement is needed against price manipulations and antitrust violations. Take action on the USDA 2007 investigation of the nonfat dry milk scandal where farmers lost millions, and where the GAO reports price manipulations at the Chicago Mercantile Exchange cheese trading markets. Consolidated corporate powers control the dairy industry and corner the markets. They are Laprino, Kraft, and Dean Foods plus some other powerful corporate entities that include Fonterra, Monsanto, Dairy Farmers of America (DFA), and more. Action must be taken against the abuses in the antitrust investigation into DFA and associates that for some unjustified reason has been sitting on the desk of the Department of Justice office despite repeated calls by dairy producers. The DOJ investigation into DFA and associates reveals more improprieties than the Enron scandal. All are corrupt, all are controlling the quality and safety of our food and supply. The USDA and FDA are NOT doing their jobs and choose to ignore the legitimate concerns of real farmers and consumers. The Capper-Volstead Act enacted to assure that the farmer's Co-ops and organizations operate to benefit their members truly and fairly has become meaningless to them. There is no proper regulatory oversight effective to assure such actions by corporations, and even exempts co-ops from antitrust action. Instead, greed and corporate profit are the voices that are heard and listened to.

National Milk Producers Federation does not represent or benefit farmers whose member associates are some of the very corporate crooks like Chicago Mercantile Exchange, Dean Foods, Monsanto, Fonterra Cooperative Group plus more. You can start connecting the crooked dots now. Reports have shown NMPF untrustworthy, with some of their programs unjustified, and some programs unethical. While so-called agriculture experts tell farmers to get bigger and promote expansion with incentives to do so, the NMPF runs a CWT (cooperatives working together) program using 80% of the CWT funds to kill off retired herds, healthy milking cows and bred heifers which are pregnant first time young cows, just to reduce cow numbers and reduce milk supply. NMPF does not represent me as a farmer nor business person as this kind of practice for supply management is a disgrace while there exists many other alternative measures to control surplus. Too many imports alone create a surplus and displace our US milk supply. The US has been a milk deficit nation for the past decade. US dairy farmers alone do not produce enough milk for our country. The supply and demand theory have turned into a scam by the corporate world to use imports, pay farmers less for their milk, and increase corporate profits. In 2008 and 2009 consumer demand has been up. The corporate entities have cornered the markets with organizations such as NMPF helping them create a playing field in the interest and benefit of corporate business and control. The other 20% they say funds export efforts where again findings report the benefits are usually by the big corporate controllers like Dairy Farmers of America, Land-O-Lakes, and Kraft. So while the good family farms are being snuffed out, the big get bigger and more powerful. David Kunde of Manchester, Iowa said it best; the NMPF CWT program is misleading and cannibalizes the very industry it claims to represent. Our senators and representatives need to fully

understand the serious issues at stake.

The sepsis of corruption is killing the dairy industry, it is destroying our good family farmers, and it is threatening the safety and sovereignty of our US food supply. This injustice is not acceptable and a crime. Our country needs its farmers, and the health of our economy and rural America depends on them. Urban sprawl is destroying agricultural land and rural America also. This trend of development increases cost, and raises everyone's taxes considerably high, plus the fact that once farm land is sold off and destroyed it is a loss to us all. Other destructive examples that raises scores of concern includes the National Animal Identification System (NAIS) which has already been proven flawed, corrupted, and a devastation to farmers in Australia. Even genetic engineering and cloning connects to corporate control and profit.

Consumers need to understand what it means to them as we lose our good dedicated farmers. As corporate entities seek out profits, they find it by making their products cheaper which is Our Food. They use cheap imports from China and other countries where sanitary and food safety standards are almost non-existent. How many more tainted products from China and elsewhere, and how many more deaths does it take to prove the security and safety of our U.S. food supply is at risk and being threatened. The USDA and FDA admit and are reportedly found to not be doing their jobs correctly or effectively. There is no oversight or enforcement of MPC's. MPC's have never been approved or given the GRAS (Generally Regarded As Safe) status. By products are being substituted into our foods like MPC's (milk protein concentrate), ultrafiltered milk, rBST, etc., and even genetic engineering all connects to corporate profits. There is NO consumer demand for adulterated food. The corporate entities are lobbying to change the definition of milk that will weaken our food standards allowing this crap in our foods. They are also lobbying against having to label their product with this information and against the consumers right-to-know what they are ingesting.

US dairy farmers need a national cost of production , Dairy Bill S-1645 is the solution, and the dairy industry corruption and abuses need to be acted on, and MPC imports need to be addressed and controlled to secure the security and safety of our US food supply that is at risk and being threatened.

Our dedicated good family farmers who provide us with a quality fresh local food supply are going out of business due to many of the reasons mentioned here. There is no excuse for this. I know...for I am one of those dedicated farmers.

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